THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

17TH - 20TH JULY 1984

BUDAPEST / HUNGARY

M I N U T E S

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(Original)

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

17th - 20th July 1984

Budapest / Hungary

M I N U T E S

(1) 1. Opening Worship and Devotions

1.1 The opening worship took place at the Main Lutheran Church in Budapest on 16th July at 20.30 hours. The presiding minister was the Rev. Dr. E. Brand of the LWF staff. The sermon was given by Dr. Fabiny of the Lutheran Church of Hungary.

(2) 1.2 The closing worship was conducted by the Rt. Rev. Dr. P. Kortekangas in the Plenary Hall of the Stadion Hotel on 20th July at 12.00 hours.

(3) 1.3 Daily morning devotions were held in the Plenary Hall of the Stadion Hotel and were conducted by Dr. E. Brand.

(4) 1.4 Daily evening devotions held in the Plenary Hall of the Stadion Hotel were led by the Rev. Dr. M. Schwintek, the Rev. A.E. Vilhjalmsdottir and Mr. W. Billings.

(5) 2. Formal Opening of Business Session

The President opened the meeting at 9.00 hours on 17th July by welcoming all participants.

(6) 3. Roll Call

The roll call (EXHIBIT 3) was taken by the Associate General Secretary.

(7) 4. Adoption of Agenda and Time Schedule

4.1 The Executive Committee

VOTED: to adopt the agenda and time schedule with the understanding that changes could be made in the course of the meeting if required.

(8) 4.2 Rules of Procedure

Attention was drawn to the presently obtaining Rules of Procedure contained in the Agenda as EXHIBIT 4.2R.

(9) 5. Approval of Minutes of Last Executive Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting were approved as circulated.

(10) 6. President's Address

The President made a few remarks indicating that having given an extensive report in January, and giving a full report to the Assembly, he felt that a report to the Executive Committee was not necessary. He drew attention to his deteriorating health, and his need to rely on his fellow-officers for leadership support.

(11) 7. Report of the General Secretary

The General Secretary gave his report (EXHIBIT 7 of the Agenda). In the discussion the questions centred around the following points:

(12) - the question of ecumenical relations with a special emphasis on reception. It was pointed out that it was essential that new ways be found to receive the important results that have been achieved by the bilateral dialogues that have been conducted;

(13) - the visit of Pope John Paul II to the Ecumenical Centre was described as an important ecumenical event;

(14) - the report of the General Secretary in behalf of the Executive Committee was discussed. There was a general commendation of the report. The suggestion was made that in introducing the report, the question of reception be discussed and that there be also an emphasis on some of the challenges for the future in areas where one could not be too satisfied with the accomplishment of the past;

(15) - the question of structure was raised with reference being made to the special report of the Commission on Studies which had drawn attention to the importance of the study function within the LWF and the need to find adequate resources to carry out this important function. The remark was made that it will be important to set clear priorities with respect to Studies.

(16) 8. Nominations, Elections and Appointments in Connection with the Executive Committee and the Assembly

8.1 Appointment of a Member to the Executive Committee

In view of the vacancy that has occurred on the Executive Committee, it was

VOTED: to elect Dr. Karl Dummler (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wuerttemberg, FRG) to this position.

(17) 8.2 Appointment of a Chairperson and a Member of the Constitution Committee

Upon the recommendation of the Officers, the Executive Committee

VOTED: 1. to appoint Bishop James Crumley,Jr., to serve as Chairperson of the Constitution Committee;

(18) 2. to appoint Dr. Karl Dummler to serve on the Constitution Committee.

(19) 9. Reports of the Commissions

9.1 Commission on Church Cooperation

Dr. J. Scherer, Chairperson of the Commission on Church Cooperation, introduced the work of this Commission. He lifted up the Working Paper on

Mission describing the long process from Dar-es-Salaam to the present day which had produced this document. The central part of the document, the theological affirmations, could be of help as the churches define and refine their understanding of mission. He pointed out that the witness for justice was one of the elements of mission and also that the question of re-evangelisation which had been raised so clearly at Dar-es-Salaam was of great importance. He indicated that while "mission" at the time of Evian was considered by some as a loaded word, at present time it was very much accepted and increasingly important in the life of all the churches.

(20) The Director, Rev. R. Lehtonen, presented his report (EXHIBIT 9.1 of the Agenda) underlining that the evaluation of the work of the CCC included points of significant advance, problems and open questions which required further attention and the future task that the next Commission should face. He also elaborated the work of the Advisory Committee on Theological Education in Africa.

(21) He indicated that the Commission recommended for financial reasons that the Youth Desk in the Department be financed as B-project. He also announced that the Africa Secretary, Rev. Amon Mwakisunga, would end his work in 1985 and that the Rev. Noel Rabemanantsoa would begin his work in early 1985.

(22) Considerable discussion focused on the Working Paper of Mission and how it might be dealt with in the future. Following the discussion, the Executive Committee

(23) VOTED: that the Working Paper on Mission of the CCC be commended to the relevant Assembly working groups as background material, and that the document be referred to the next Executive Committee for further consideration and refinement.

(24) A number of Executive Committee and Commission members expressed their concern about the continuation of the Youth Desk, and that its continuation should be assured by including it in the A-budget. Following the discussion, the Executive Committee

(25) VOTED: that the Executive Committee urges the continuation of the Youth Desk as presently constituted, asking that further consultation be held with the Treasurer and the Finance Committee regarding its financing.

(26) 9.2 Commission on World Service

The Chairperson, Ms. G. Diestel, introduced the report of the Commission (EXHIBIT 9.2 of the Agenda). She began with the description of a significant consultation held in the GDR with member church representatives from Eastern Europe. She then drew attention to some of the major aspects of the work. In Central America a careful survey of refugee and development needs had been done by a special delegation of WS. She described the seminar that had been held in Zimbabwe with the assistance of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe with church leaders from Namibia and WS staff in preparation for the day of Namibian independence. Ms. Diestel spoke also of the difficult situation in Sudan where international staff had be be evacuated because of hostilities there, indicating that the local staff were still carrying out limited assistance programmes.

(27) The Director of World Service, Dr. E. Ries, followed up the report of the Chairperson by focusing on the question of the drought in Africa and the cooperative venture initiated by WS with other Protestant and Roman Catholic agencies seeking $ 100 million to provide emergency as well as long-range assistance for that continent. He indicated that work had already begun in five African countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe) with funds that had been received by WS. Among the countries mentioned he spoke especially about the situation in Ethiopia. He also described the new programme that had been started in Nepal.

(28) The Director of CDS, Ms. C. Held, presented her report as contained in EXHIBIT 9.2.2 of the Agenda, indicating that the CDS Governing Board has begun a process of revising the CDS criteria. She also expressed appreciation for the work of the Rural Development Secretary, Olle Erickson, who is leaving the service of the LWF this autumn.

(29) Regarding the proposed new Terms of Reference of World Service (EXHIBIT 9.2.1 of the Agenda), the Executive Committee

VOTED: to accept the Terms of Reference of the Department of World Service as amended.

(30) 9.3 Commission on Communication

Before beginning his report. Dr. John W. Bachman, Chairperson of the Commission on Communication, presented greetings from the former President of the Lutheran World Federation and Honorary Member, Dr. Frederik Schiotz. At that point the Executive Committee agreed to extend greetings to Drs. F. Schiotz, H. Dietzfelbinger and R. Weeber.

(31) The Chairperson of the Commission on Communication introduced the report by directing the attention of the Executive Committee to two significant changes that have taken place during the last 7-year period. The first change was the considerable movement to a more comprehensive approach to communication. If in the beginning of the LWF work there had been a strong concentration on electronic and more especially on shortwave media, then now there is a much broader emphasis on questions of communication. Much attention is also being given to the question of reception.

(32) A second significant change has to do with the structure. The Chairperson indicated to the Executive Committee that its action to create a Commission and Department of Communication had proven to be wise. He also expressed the hope that the new Committee on Programme Priorities will provide specific guidance to the Commissions for their future work in selecting projects for implementation.

(33) He concluded his remarks by paying tribute to the Director of the Department of Communication, Rev. Marc Chambron, who will soon be leaving the service of the Lutheran World Federation.

(34) The Director, Rev. M. Chambron, presented his report (EXHIBIT 9.3 of the Agenda) and pointed out two major parts of his report. The first part provided up-to-date information on communication matters related to the LWF Assembly and the second part gave a summary of the major decisions of the Commission Meeting last spring. With respect to the Assembly, he pointed out that the interest of the press was very high with over 200 media representatives being accredited from 24 different countries. In reporting on the Commission Meeting, he lifted up the growth of the work of the Information Bureau and the decision to issue a monthly news summary for many of the present subscribers of the weekly service. He indicated that a total of 62 projects were approved for funding in 1985.

(35) The discussion centred mainly on the following questions which were raised by Executive Committee members:

- radio broadcasting project in Brazil
- compensation claim for RVOG.

(36) 9.4 Commission on Studies

The Director of the Department, Dr. Y. Ishida, presented his report (EXHIBIT 9.4 of the Agenda). He pointed out that the Department had accepted a very large range of assignments with a reduced number of executives from 14 to 7 and also a reduced number of support staff. The constant financial pressure had obliged the Department to make adjustments in order to comply with the manifold mandates.

(37) He then explicated on the basis of the Terms of Reference the fundamental character of the work of the Department. First was the theological perspective of the LWF Constitution. Secondly, the development of what is called "shared study" using both inductive and deductive methods and following the interdisciplinary approach. Thirdly, a stronger focus on consultative services serving and enabling the member churches to carry out mission and ministry in a given area. He then presented the several recommendations of the report and concluded his remarks by speaking about the unfinished tasks and on-going assignments.

(38) The Chairperson of the Commission on Studies, Dr. G. Krusche, presented a report also commenting on the report of the Commission. It is shown in the Minutes as APPENDIX to EXHIBIT 9.4.2. In his address he used the opportunity to reflect on his 14 years of experience as a member of the Studies Commission and underlined in particular the structure problems that have constantly plagued the work of the Department of and Commission on Studies.

(39) He then explicated his basic thesis through 7 points:

(40) 1. There must be studies; this is true because of the basic ecclesial character of the LWF.

(41) 2. Studies must be participatory; this means that the churches must be deeply involved in all of the study activities of the Federation.

(42) 3. Studies must be based on mandates given by an Assembly and considered by the Executive Committee on the basis of set priorities.

(43) 4. Studies are for the whole of the LWF; in this regard he strongly raised the question of whether coordination and communication were adequate in the LWF. He pointed out that the General Secretariat had not succeeded in achieving adequate mediation and coordination and, therefore, his view was that the individual units had become isolated from each other, each in their own separate kingdom.

(44) 5. One must be able to finance the studies; once again he emphasised the problem of the constant deficit and, therefore, the elimination of certain important projects and the seeming discrimination with respect to the study function of the LWF.

(45) 6. Studies must serve the weak; he felt that the study work in the last years had not adequately involved the churches in the Third World. He also felt that there were not a sufficient number of Third World people on the staff of DS.

(46) 7. His concluding remarks indicated that these concerns come out of a loyalty to and love for the work and the hope that we must have for Studies.

(47) The extensive discussion touched on all of the points that had been raised by Dr. Krusche, together with the letter from the Commission and the position paper of the Department (EXHIBIT 9.4.2 of the Agenda). Each of the Commission Chairpersons and the Department Directors also reacted to the address by Dr. Krusche. The General Secretary, who welcomed these remarks as constructive criticism, indicated where he felt the problems lay, drawing attention to his previous report (January 1984) to the Executive Committee which had discussed a number of the concerns raised. The fundamental concern of coordination as well as communication, it was felt, was being approached at the level of the Cabinet. It has been the subject of much discussion. There was room for considerable improvement, it was admitted, while at the same time the complexity of working in a multi-cultured, multi-purpose international organisation would always make communication and coordination a considerable chal-

lenge. It was pointed out that the Executive Committee had authorised a management study to be made in 1980 which resulted in a revision of all of the position descriptions and re-classification of all positions in the house. It was felt that from time to time such management studies could be beneficial.

(48) The fundamental issue of the financing of study work in the church was seen as a major issue. Study projects do not attract funds as do certain other operational projects in the Federation. There was a consensus that for such work a greater amount of unearmarked funds or block grants needed to be sought. The general fund-raising approach of the LWF needed to be reconsidered in the light of this problem.

(49) The Chairperson turned the attention of the Executive Committee to the recommendations of the Commission on Studies.

(50) The Executive Committee

VOTED: to receive the position paper of the Department of Studies on its responsibility in the LWF (EXHIBIT 9.4.2 of the Agenda) as information.

(51) With respect to the communication and coordination question that had been raised, the Executive Committee

(52) VOTED: 1. that the General Secretary be requested in consultation with the Cabinet to present a report on continuing progress in inter-departmental cooperation to the Officers at their 1985 winter meeting and, on the basis of this report, the Officers be asked to consider the needs for discussion with management consultants and make the appropriate recommendation to the 1985 Executive Committee Meeting;

(53) 2. that a proposal of establishing a joint working group between the Cabinet and the Executive Committee be considered be the Officers.

(54) Following a longer discussion on the question of continuity on LWF Commissions, the Executive Committee

VOTED: that in order to help with continuity, at least one fourth of the Commission Mem-

bers appointed by the new Executive Committee be persons who have served during the past period.

(55) With respect to the report of the Church and the Jewish People (EXHIBIT 9.4.4 of the Agenda) the Executive Committee

VOTED: to refer the report of the Church and the Jewish People to a special committee on the Church and the Jewish People of the Assembly for its consideration.

(56) With respect to the proposed Criteria for Public Statements, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to refer the proposed Criteria for Public Statements and the Violation of Human Rights to the Assembly Working Group on Human Rights for comments.

(57) 10. Ecumenical Relations

Dr. Mau asked the Chairperson to call on Dr. E. Brand, who has assumed staff responsibility for Interconfessional Dialogue and Ecumenical Research in the Department of Studies.

(58) Dr. Brand highlighted the report (EXHIBIT 10 of the Agenda) pointing out that it be understood as a supplement to the full report presented in January 1984 (LWF Executive Committee Minutes, January 1984, EXHIBITS 10 & 10.1).

(59) I. BILATERIAL RELATIONS (EXHIBIT 10.1 of the Agenda)

1. Anglican-Lutheran Dialogue

In speaking about the Anglican-Lutheran Dialogue, Dr. Brand indicated that Anglican-Lutheran relations had grown closer in recent years. During a meeting with the Anglican Consultative Council in April plans had been made for the implementation of the recommendations of the Anglican-Lutheran Joint Working Group.

(60) 2. Methodist-Lutheran Dialogue

Dr. Brand pointed out that the fifth and concluding session of the Methodist-Lutheran Joint Commission had in March this year formulated its final report "The Church, Community of Grace". He

indicated that the new Executive Committee could best deal with the dialogue report. Following a considerable discussion, the Executive Committee

(61) VOTED: to receive with great appreciation the recommendations of the Methodist-Lutheran Joint Commission, commending them to the new Executive Committee as a matter of high priority.

(62) The Executive Committee further asked the General Secretary to send the report to the member churches for study and comment.

(63) 3. Orthodox-Lutheran Dialogue

3.1 World Level

The Executive Committee noted that the third meeting of the Orthodox-Lutheran Joint Commission has been postponed until spring 1985.

(64) 3.2 Documentation Centre for Lutheran-Orthodox Relations

Concerning the above mentioned Centre, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to include an amount of US$ 5,000 in the 1985 Statement of Needs.

(65) 4. Reformed-Lutheran Dialogue

It was reported that the new Executive Committee will be asked to appoint Lutheran members for a Reformed-Lutheran Dialogue. A first meeting of this new joint commission is anticipated to be held in mid-December 1984 in Geneva.

(66) 5. Roman Catholic-Lutheran Dialogue

5.1 Federal Republic of Germany

The Executive Committee was reminded that the Roman Catholic-Lutheran Dialogue had concluded a significant document on "Kirchengemeinschaft in Wort und Sakrament".

(67) 5.2 World Level

On the world level the current phase of the dialogue has been completed after 11 years with a meeting held in Rome from 27th February to 3rd March 1984. The Executive Committee has declared its readiness for a new series of dialogues to begin in the near future.

(68) II. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN WORLD COMMUNIONS

1. RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

2. The Executive Committee noted that a proposal will be made to the Standing Committee on Ecumenical Relations of the new Executive Committee to find a way for LWF to render assistance both to the member churches and to the World Council of Churches regarding responses to "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" (ibid., EXHIBIT 10, para. 9, of the Agenda).

(69) III. STUDY PROJECTS

1. Growth in Ecumenical Commitment, Experiences and Perspectives

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(70) 2. Self-Understanding and Ecumenical Role of the LWF

The ensuing discussion centred mainly around the question of reception. How can the results of a dialogue be effectively implemented on the church and congregational level? Reception was seen as the new chapter in the dialogue series which needs to be given serious attention. Mention was made of the work of the Strasbourg Institute on this theme.

(71) The question was raised which themes might be taken up in a new dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church. The response was that the whole issue of reception would be a dominant issue and that other theological issues between Roman Catholics and Lutherans needed further attention. Points for discussion will be dealt with in the new Commission.

(72) The Executive Committee took the opportunity of concurrent meetings of the Mennonite World Conference (Strasbourg/France) and the LWF to send the following greeting:

(73) "Assembled under the theme "In Christ - Hope for the World" we greet you, our Mennonite brothers and sisters assembled in Strasbourg, a city important in your history, linked as it is with the teachings and the death in prison of Melchior Hofmann. We believe that hope in Christ includes hope for reconciliation between Lutherans and Mennonites all over the world.

(74) When the 450th anniversary of the Confessio Augustana was celebrated in 1980, we gained a new awareness of how that profession of faith, so fundamental to our proclamation of the Gospel, also became a factor in the maltreatment of other Christians by our forebears. Many of us still recall the moving words of Pastor Willy Wiedemann (Regensburg) about that in Augsburg. Today we Lutherans can neither identify with nor condone such actions, and we deeply regret the suffering unjustly inflicted on those who are your fathers and mothers in the faith.

(75) In spite of our theological differences concerning Holy Baptism we wish to express our willingness to overcome the condemnations of the past and, through a process of dialogue, to find ways of recognizing each other freely as sisters and brothers in the one body of Christ. Not only do we have the Holy Scriptures on which to build; we share as heirs in major concerns of the Reformation.

(76) We desire to heal the wounds of the past not only for the sake of our reconciliation within the people of God, but also to strengthen the credibility of our common Christian witness that the world may believe.

In Christ who is our hope,

Executive Committee
Lutheran World Federation"

(77) The General Secretary noted that greetings would also be sent to the Anglican Consultative Council and the Baptist World Alliance whose meetings also overlap with the dates of the Seventh Assembly.

(78) The Chairperson then called upon the Rev. U. von Brück, the President of the Kuratorium, to report

on the work of the Strasbourg Institute. Rev. von Brück introduced the interim report (EXHIBIT 10.2 of the Agenda). He reflected about the years that he had been Chairperson of the Institute noting that while there had been serious financial problems, the financial situation now continues to be balanced.

(79) Rev. von Brück expressed great appreciation to the staff of the Institute and also to the Executive Committee members on the Board of the Institute who had served with him.

(80) Dr. Harding Meyer, Director of the Strasbourg Institute, gave further explications to the question of reception and pointed to the special study project of local ecumenism which had been carried out by the Institute. It was in this study that the problem of reception became most evident. Here the question of the ecumenical motivation, the role of the pastors and priests, the concepts of unity, the significance of doctrinal questions and the influence of non-doctrinal factors on the local level needed to be taken into account.

(81) Following further discussion, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to recommend to the next Executive Committee that special attention be given to filling the vacant professorial position in the Strasbourg Institute.

(82) The Executive Committee also expressed the hope that the new Executive Committee would concern itself with the financial situation of the Strasbourg Institute, assuring it an adequate income.

(83) The Executive Committee expressed special appreciation to Rev. von Brück for his dedication and interest in the Strasbourg Institute over the last seven years.

(84) Both reports were received with appreciation.

(85) 11. Seventh Assembly

The General Secretary introduced the items still needing attention regarding the Seventh Assembly.

(86) The Associate General Secretary, Dr. A. Lema, presented an overview of all of the technical arrangements of the Assembly. He praised the host church for the great deal of work that had been done to provide all

of the facilities needed for a good Assembly. He also complimented the staff of the Sports Hall and the Stadion Hotel.

(87) 11.1 General Secretary's Report on Behalf of the Executive Committee

Suggestions had been made during the General Secretary's report regarding certain remarks that might be made in connection with the General Secretary's report on behalf of the Executive Committee.

(88) 11.2 Agenda and Time Schedule of the Assembly

1. The General Secretary drew attention to the agenda of the Assembly and changes proposed in the time schedule. The major change was to move the elections forward from Friday, 2nd August, to Tuesday, 31st July. Plenary No. 11 was also moved from the afternoon of Monday, 30th July, to the morning.

   These changes were agreed upon by the Executive Committee.

(89) 2. Addition to the Rules of Procedure

It was VOTED that the following be added to the Rules of Procedure:

4.1.5.6 Positions of the Executive Committee shall be divided as follows (present division):

Africa	5 places
Asia	4 places
Latin America	2 places
North America	5 places
Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden	5 places
Fed. Republic of Germany	4 places
Eastern Europe (2 for GDR)	4 places
Western Europe (Minority Churches)	1 place

(90) 11.3 Assembly Committees

Upon the recommendation of the Officers, the Executive Committee

VOTED: 1. to replace Ms. Ling Anderson with Ms. Gunvor Lande on the Nominations Committee;

(91) 2. to replace Mr. Horst Göldner with Bishop von Keler on the Coordinating Committee.

(92) Regarding the appointment of a Committee on the Church and the Jewish People, the Executive Committee, upon the recommendation of the Officers,

VOTED: to appoint the following persons to the Committee on the Church and the Jewish People:

- Joseph A. Burgess
- George Forell
- Käte Mahn
- Laszlo Terray
- Wonno Bleij
- Mikko Juva

(93) 11.4 Speaker, Special Greetings

The General Secretary indicated that the matter of the Church and the Jewish People should be dealt with by a special committee to be appointed by the Assembly which would study the report coming out of the dialogue between the LWF and the International Jewish Committee on Inter-religious Consultation (IJCIC) (EXHIBIT 9.4.4 of the Agenda) and report its findings to the Assembly through the Coordinating Committee. On Wednesday morning, 1st August, Dr. G. Riegner, General Secretary of the World Jewish Congress, has been invited to give a brief address and at that time the special committee would also give its report.

(94) Dr. Mau also reported that Dr. Kameeta had not received his passport and would most likely not attend the Assembly. (A few hours later the news was received that Dr. Kameeta would receive his passport in time to attend the Assembly.)

(95) Bishop Kaldy was then called upon to present a report. He expressed the joy of the host church that the Assembly was a reality. He described the great enthusiasm of the congregations and members to attend the opening worship and also the closing worship. He spoke of the 116 congregations that would be receiving guests and visitors on the Sunday in the middle of the As-

sembly. The congregations had raised over 250,000 dollars to provide for the facilities for the Assembly. He announced that the Vice-President of the Government would attend the opening meeting and bring greetings and would give a reception for the Assembly. The church would also give a reception on Sunday evening, 22nd July.

(96) The Chairperson warmly thanked Bishop Kaldy and the church for all of their efforts.

(97) 12. Constitution Committee (EXHIBIT 12)

The Report of the Constitution Committee, EXHIBIT 12, was presented and discussed in the context of item 17, Southern Africa.

(98) 13. Report of the Officers (EXHIBIT 13)

13.1 Opening

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(99) 13.2 Agenda and Time Schedule

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(100) 13.3 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(101) 13.4 Financial Matters

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(102) 13.5 Personnel Matters

Appointment and Renewal of Terms

13.5.1 Comptroller (expiration of term: 30th August 1985)

See item 14.1.1 of these Minutes.

(103) 13.5.2 Assistant Comptroller for Fund-raising Coordination

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(104) 13.6 Assembly Preparations

13.6.1 Status Confessionis

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(105) 13.6.2 Assembly Committees

See item 11.3 of these Minutes

(106) 13.7 Miscellaneous

13.7.1 Office Space

Dr. Ries reported that the new wing of the Ecumenical Centre was to be built by the World Council of Churches which would assure 84 new offices in order to meet the needs of the LWF in view of the temporary offices of the Department of Studies and also additional space needed by other departments as well as the WCC.

(107) It was pointed out that the Officers had voted to guarantee that the LWF would remain for at least five years in the Ecumenical Centre and for three-year periods thereafter with one year notice to be given should the Federation wish to vacate.

(108) 13.7.2 Pietermaritzburg

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(109) 13.7.3 Vacancy on the Constitution Committee

Upon the recommendation of the Officers, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to appoint Bishop James Crumley, Jr., to serve as Chairperson of the Constitution Committee.

(110) 13.7.4 Memorial Service for Bishop Ordass

The General Secretary drew attention to the memorial service for Bishop Ordass indicating that this service was being planned for 17 hours on Friday, 20th July, at the graveside of Bishop Ordass with members of the family in attendance. It was to be held in a small circle although anyone from the Assembly would be welcome to visit the grave later.

(111) 13.8 Closing

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(112) 14. Personnel Matters

14.1 Appointments and Renewal of Terms

14.1.1 Comptroller (expiration of term: 30th April 1985)

Upon the recommendation by the General Secretary and with the concurrence of the Officers, the Executive Committee

(113) VOTED: to extend Mr. Gerhard Messner's term for a period of three years, i.e. from 1st May 1985 to 30th April 1988.

(114) 14.1.2 Director of Communication

Upon recommendation by the General Secretary and with the concurrence of the Officers, the Executive Committee

(115) VOTED: to appoint Mr. Norman Hjelm for a 3-year term to the position of Director of Communication starting in autumn 1984.

(116) 15. Financial Matters

15.1 Report of the Treasurer and Comptroller

In presenting their joint report, the Treasurer expressed appreciation for the continued support of the member churches which, together with careful administration, had made possible a balanced financial statement for the year 1983. The Comptroller pointed out certain other areas of concern, which were discussed in detail in later agenda points.

(117) Following up the January 1984 Finance Committee's request, that a more coordinated LWF Geneva "A" items approach be realised, with appropriate reserve funds, which ensure that the multipurpose nature of the LWF be retained and that designated grants (for example hunger and development funds) are not diminished, an Interdepartmental Task Force on Geneva Administration Costs has been established. In addition, the Assistant Comptroller's position has been newly described to facilitate such coordination.

(118) The Executive Committee

VOTED: that the report of the Treasurer and Comptroller be received with appreciation.

(119) 15.2 Review of 1983

Approval of 1983 Audit Reports

Particular attention was given to the Group Financial Statement (EXHIBIT 15.5 of the Agenda) which summarizes the total financial affairs of the LWF. Appendix II of this Statement shows that for the 1983 Composite Statement of Needs total expenditure amounted to $ 42,225,563.

(120) With respect to membership contributions, the Finance Committee noted that the total budgeted amount was $ 1,210,360. Actual receipts amounted to $ 1,184,404.

(121) The Committee was informed that the Commissions on Church Cooperation, World Service, Studies and Communication, having dealt with their respective audit reports, had found them in order and recommend them for approval by the Executive Committee.

(122) The Executive Committee

VOTED: that the audit reports for 1983 for the General Secretariat, the Commissions and the Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research as well as the Group Financial Statement be accepted;

(123) that the contributions received from member churches towards the 1983 membership contributions be gratefully acknowledged and that the Lutheran World Federation place on record its appreciation to the LWF member churches, related agencies and other donors for the generous contributions towards the Lutheran World Federation and its programmes during the year 1983.

(124) It was noted that due to Assembly preparations, in addition to the on-going heavy workload, the qualitative audit requested by the Finance Committee for 1983 could not be carried out. This audit will be implemented in connection with the 1984 regular audit.

(125) Following the example of the budget for the Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research, which is based now on French Francs, the use of local currencies for other projects, where feasible, should be explored.

(126) 1983 Audit Report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the LWF

The Committee also gave attention to the audit report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the LWF as found in EXHIBIT 15.4 of the Agenda. Total assets of the Pension Fund amounted to SFr. 12,874,727. The transactions within the Pension Fund were as follows: credit balance as of 1st January 1983: SFr. 7,934,060; receipts in 1983: SFr. 1,218,016 for the LWF subsidy, SFr. 3,500,000 as a special contribution and SFr. 508,120 on investment income; against SFr. 518,476 expenditure, resulting on a balance of SFr. 12,641,720 in the Fund at year end.

(127) The Executive Committee

VOTED: that the audit report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the Lutheran World Federation be received as information.

(128) 15.3 Overview of 1984

15.3.1 Potential to Cover 1984 Statement of Needs - Assurances

The summary of the requested and assured income towards the Geneva 1984 "A" budgets, as presented in the separate Finance Committee Agenda Reference, shows that as of 30th June 1984, there is an uncovered balance of $ 157,000. The Comptroller informed the Committee that, taking into account later allocations, interest and currency exchange gains, it should be possible to cover the present unassured amounts for the Geneva "A" items.

(129) The Committee noted, that as requested by the Finance Committee at the 13th January 1984 meeting, the 1984 LWF Geneva "A" items were decreased by $ 202,600.

(130) The Executive Committee

VOTED: that the substantial support already provided by member churches, national committees and other contributing agencies towards the 1984 Composite Statement of Needs be gratefully acknowledged while, at the same time, drawing attention to the uncovered balance with the request that support be sustained for the tasks still to be accomplished this year.

(131) 15.4 1985 Composite Statement of Needs

15.4.1 Approval of the Draft Statement of Needs

It was noted that the Standing Finance Committee has a specific responsibility with respect to the proposed Statement of Needs of the General Secretariat, since that section of the Composite Statement of Needs is not previously processed through any governing commission of the Federation. The Assistant Comptroller explained this section of the proposed Statement of Needs, and the

Statement of Needs of the four Commissions were presented by the respective Directors of the Departments. It was noted that the Commissions and other units are taking the necessary steps to ensure that the income and expenditure for 1985 Statement of Needs "A" items are balanced.

(132) The Executive Committee

VOTED: 1. that the 1985 Composite Statement of Needs of the General Secretariat be approved;

(133) 2. that the proposed 1985 Composite Statement of Needs for the General Secretariat, the Departments of Studies, Church Cooperation, World Service and Communication be authorised by the Executive Committee for submission to member churches, national committees and other potential donor agencies with its earnest recommendation for generous support.

(134) 3. Subsequently, it was recommended that the 1985 request for the DCC Youth Desk, amounting to 92,100 be transferred from "B" to "A".

(135) 15.4.2 Approval of 1985 Membership Contributions

The Executive Committee

VOTED: 1. to reaffirm its resolution from Augsburg in 1980 that the member churches set as a goal the payment of 1 cent (US$) per member as a minimum for their membership contribution and that the minimum amount of the membership contribution to LWF be raised to $ 240.

(136) 2. that the 1985 membership contributions be authorised

in the amount of $ 1,340,020 as listed in EXHIBIT 15.5 of the Executive Committee Agenda.

(137) 15.4.3 Approval of the Apportionment of the 1985 Membership Contributions

With respect to the allocation of membership contributions to the headquarters' budget, the Executive Committee

VOTED: that the anticipated income of $ 1,340,020 from membership contributions be allocated as follows:

Gen. Secretariat	$ 923,820
Dept. of Studies	135,000
Dept. of Communication	281,200

(138) Accordingly, the financing of the budget of the General Secretariat for 1985 is envisaged as follows:

Total "A" budget	$ 1,537,540	
Membership contributions 1985		$ 923,820
Allocation from units to OFPA		414,000
Allocation still requested		199,720
	$ 1,537,540	1,537,540

(139) 15.4.4 Approval of the Apportionment of the Office of Finance, Personnel and Administration (OFPA) Subsidy

The Committee was informed that the contribution of the departments to the OFPA budget in 1985 would amount to $ 414,000 as in 1984. This amount would be shared proportionately among the departments, with the understanding that the present division of contributions among departments be reviewed. This matter was received as information by the Committee.

(140) 15.5 Assembly Fund

The Committee received the budget for the Seventh Assembly which amounts to $ 1,314,000, as information. It was noted that foreseeable contributions as of 1st July 1984 were approximately $ 1,284,000, leaving a shortfall of about $ 30,000.

(141) Therefore, the Executive Committee

VOTED: that member churches be commended for their positive responses to the Assembly Fund and that the member churches be urged to cover the remaining shortfall of $ 30,000.

(142) 16. Membership Committee (EXHIBIT 16)

The Chairperson pro tem, Bishop P. Kortekangas, introduced the Report of the Standing Membership Committee.

(143) 16.1 Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church, Indonesia

The Executive Committee

VOTED: 1. to recommend to the Assembly the acceptance into membership of the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church;

(144) 2. that the LWF mediate between the ICLC and the HKBP concerning disputes over property and other matters.

(145) 16.2 Church Council of Lanka Lutheran Church, Sri Lanka

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to postpone the date of admission of the applicant to membership in the LWF and to request the LWF Area Secretary for Asia to continue to keep in touch with the applicant and with the other churches in the area.

(146) 16.3 Lutheran Church of Taiwan

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to recommend to the Assembly the acceptance into membership of the Lutheran Church of Taiwan.

(147) 16.4 Gereja K.P.M., Indonesia

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to recommend to the Assembly the acceptance into membership of the Gereja K.P.M., Indonesia.

(148) 16.5 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana

The Executive Committee decided to leave the question of membership open until further discussion with Bishops Shiri, Dumeni and Präses Frederik could be held during the Assembly.

(149) 16.6 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal)

It was pointed out that this church is eligible for membership, but that the decision will have to await the discussion of the Harare recommendation.

(150) 16.7 Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Zaire

In view of inadequate information available and the need for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania to examine this information, the matter has been postponed. If any new information emerges before the end of the Assembly, this application could still be dealt with.

(151) 16.8 Latin American Lutheran Church, Bolivia

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(152) 16.9 Bangladesh Luther-Church, Rangpur

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(153) 16.10 Lutheran Evangelical Movement, Sivakasi, India

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(154) 16.11 China Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chia Yi, Taiwan

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(155) 16.12 Lutheran Church of Japan, Tokyo

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(156) 16.13 Lutheran Council of Great Britain

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(157) 16.14 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(158) 16.15 Field del Ecuador, Cuenca, Ecuador

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(159) 16.16 Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Elberfeld-Nord, FRG

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(160) 16.17 Salvadoran Lutheran Synod

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(161) 16.18 Iglesia Evangelica Luterana, Uruguay

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(162) 17. Southern Africa

The Committee had a lengthy debate on the issue of Southern Africa, and in particular on the question of the implementation of the Dar-es-Salaam Assembly's resolution on "Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity". The All-Africa Pre-Assembly Consultation in Harare in December 1983 called upon the LWF to suspend the membership of its two "white" member churches in Southern Africa. The purpose of the Committee's discussion at this meeting was to propose how the Assembly might best handle this issue.

(163) Before the Committee in its deliberations were the Issue Paper prepared by the General Secretary (EXHIBIT 17 of the Agenda), the Report of the Constitution Committee (EXHIBIT 12) and an amendment to the Constitution Committee's recommendation prepared by Bishop Aarflot. Bishop Karlheinz Stoll, a member of the LWF team which went to Southern Africa in February, specially attended this session.

(164) Bishop Crumley presented the Report of the Constitution Committee, which had considered the issue of suspension at the request of the January 1984 Executive Committee Meeting. The Constitution Committee concluded that suspension was open to question and/or lengthy plenary debate on several grounds in addition to those listed in the report:

(165) 1. Suspension presents serious ecclesiological questions. What does it imply about the nature of the LWF?

(166) 2. What would suspension mean in practice? Which rights of membership would be taken away? For how long?

(167) 3. Suspension looks to be like a disciplinary process, yet a fair disciplinary proceeding requires known procedures.

(168) 4. What would be the logical next step should suspension fail? Termination?

(169) 5. The Constitution already provides for termination, not for suspension.

(170) The Constitution Committee was sympathetic to the resolutions of Harare but believed that suspension would

be so controversial in itself that the Assembly might be diverted from the basic issue - that of apartheid and the unity of the church.

(171) Extensive, thorough and thoughtful debate brought out many points, among them: The white churches have already had quite a bit of time to end racial division of the Lutheran church. Already in 1970 there was a proposal before the Assembly to expel these churches, but it was turned down because of pleas to give them more time. Yet there appears to have been some progress since Harare. We must hear from the churches concerned... The LWF is a living fellowship and apartheid is completely contrary to the Christian basis of that fellowship. A church which supports apartheid has in effect distanced itself and withdrawn from that fellowship. This was said already in Swakopmund in 1975... How can we best win those churches back to the fellowship? And how can we best be faithful to the "black" churches, which have already suffered and suffered again because of apartheid and the divisions of the Lutheran church. One cannot speak of church unity and live separately... If our actions are divorced from our confession, our confession is hollow... Racism exists in all our churches.. The order of the church also serves as a witness to the world. Our goal is one Lutheran church in South Africa which can serve as a witness for unity in an apartheid society.

(172) At the end of the discussion the following proposal was adopted for transmittal to the Assembly, subject to revision by the Assembly Business Committee after the Southern African church representatives are heard, and subject to hearing the Membership Committee's recommendation (see paragraph 166 of these Minutes):

(173) The Seventh Assembly, having studied and heard extensive reports regarding the situation in Southern Africa

(174) 1. REAFFIRMS the resolution of the Sixth Assembly of Dar-es-Salaam, Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity. The Lutheran World Federation consists of churches which accept the doctrinal basis set forth in Article II of the LWF Constitution. The Sixth Assembly declared the rejection of apartheid to be necessary "on the basis of faith and in order to manifest the unity of the church". The Assembly stated further, "Confessional subscription should lead to concrete manifestation in unity in worship and in working together at the common tasks of the church." Therefore, the rejection of apartheid is integral to the Christian witness and to fellowship between the churches.

(175) 2. STRONGLY AND URGENTLY APPEALS to its white member churches in Southern Africa, namely the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) and the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in South West Africa (Namibia), to publicly and unequivocally reject the system of apartheid (separate development) and to end the division of the church on racial grounds.

(176) 3. Regretfully concluding that no satisfactory implementation of this goal has as yet been achieved, the Assembly finds that those churches have in fact withdrawn from the confessional community which forms the basis of membership in the Lutheran World Federation. Therefore, the Assembly finds itself constrained to TERMINATE THE MEMBERSHIP of the above churches, intending that such action serve as a help for those churches to come to clear witness with respect to the policy of apartheid (separate development) and to move to visible unity of the Lutheran Churches in Southern Africa.

(177) 4. DECLARES this decision to be effective as of 1st September 1986, in order to leave the possibility for the church involved to take measures to publicly and unequivocally reject the system of apartheid (separate development) and to end the division of the church on racial grounds; INSTRUCTS the Executive Committee at its 1986 meeting to take steps to implement the decision, in case no satisfactory actions are taken by the churches involved, to establish the legal and practical conditions for abolishing the practice of apartheid in the life of the churches.

(178) 5. POSTPONES the decision on the membership application of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal) until a satisfactory response to the appeal in number two above (which is also directed to this church) is received, intending that such action serve as a help for this church to come to a clear witness with respect to the policy of apartheid (separate development) and to move to visible unity of the Lutheran churches in Southern Africa.

(179) 6. OFFERS the Lutheran churches in Southern Africa every support and assistance as they seek to witness to the Gospel of the Grace of Jesus Christ and move to visible unity. Such support and assistance should include the following:

(180) a. A visit of a delegation of the Federation to counsel with and encourage the Lutheran Churches of Southern Africa.

(181) b. Encouraging other regular visits to the churches by other member churches and the Federation.

(182) c. Continued appeal to member churches around the world to support all Lutheran churches and all churches in Southern Africa in prayer.

(183) d. Continued commitment to strong advocacy on the part of the LWF and its member churches, seeking to support peaceful and positive change towards equality of all peoples of Southern Africa.

(184) 7. ENCOURAGES all member churches to engage in ongoing self-examination in the light of scripture, rejecting all forms of racial discrimination.

(185) The Committee then heard a report on preparations for the Open Hearing on Southern Africa at the Assembly.

(186) 18. Miscellaneous

18.1 Youth Participation in LWF Commissions

After extensive discussion the Executive Committee VOTED to recommend to the new Executive Committee:

> that one of the twelve Commission members be no more then 30 years of age when appointed. This Commissioner should be nominated by the LWF member churches following the LWF Seventh Assembly and be appointed by the LWF Officers at their 1985 winter meeting.

(187) 18.2 Joint Statement by the ELCJ and its COCOP-Partners

The statement on the Middle East by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and its COCOP-Partners was referred to the Assembly Working Group on Peace for its consideration.

(188) 18.3 Assistance to the LWF President

The Executive Committee warmly thanked Bishop Kibira's Assistant, Rev. Per Larsson. As the

President's Secretary, Counsellor, Servant and Friend in Christ, Rev. Larsson has been of great service to Bishop Kibira, to the Lutheran World Federation and to all the members of the Executive Committee.

(189) 18.4 Greetings from the Christian Community of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Dr. Paul Wee, General Secretary of Lutheran World Ministries, brought greetings from the Christian Community of the Democratic Republic of Korea. During a two-week visit in June, Dr. Wee and his companions on this mission were treated with warmth and friendship. The Christian Community there is again able to build churches and has recently prepared a new Bible translation and hymnal. They are trying to live out their lives in hope and dignity.

(190) 19. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The new Executive Committee will hold its first meeting in Budapest/Hungary - following the close of the LWF Seventh Assembly - from 6th to 8th August 1984.

(191) 20. Closing

The meeting closed on Friday, 20th July, at 13.00 hours.

EXHIBITS

L I S T O F E X H I B I T S

3	List of Participants
9.4.2	(APPENDIX to EXHIBIT 9.4.2) Address of the Chairperson of the Commission on Studies on the Study Responsibility of the LWF
12	Report of the Constitution Committee
13	Report of the Officers
15	Report of the Standing Finance Committee
15.5	Membership Contribution Request 1985
16	Report of the Standing Membership Committee

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - TEILNEHMERLISTE

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- Dr. B.V. SUBBAMMA, Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church, Luthergiri, Rajahmundry 533 104, East Godavari District, A.P., South India

- The Rev. Audur Eir VILHJALMSDOTTIR, National Church of Iceland, Kastalagerdi 11, Kopavogur, Iceland

Absent - Abwesend

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- The Rev. Dr. Yoshiro ISHIDA, Director of the Department of Studies
- The Rev. Risto LEHTONEN, Director of the Department of Church Cooperation
- Mr. Gerhard MESSNER, Comptroller
- The Rev. Dr. Eugene RIES, Director of the Department of World Service

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- Mr. Dennis FRADO, Secretary for Communication and Documentation, Department of World Service
- The Rev. Karl GERVIN, Secretary for Assembly Content Coordination, Department of Studies

- The Rev. Dr. Roger KAHLE, English Editor, Information Bureau, Department of Communication
- Mr. Friedrich KOENIG, German Editor, Information Bureau, Department of Communication
- The Rev. Dr. Rainer STAHL, Assistant to the General Secretary

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- Ms. Inge KLAAS, Administrative Assistant, Department of Studies
- Ms. Ingrid KRAEHENBUEHL, Administrative Secretary to the General Secretary
- Ms. Rita LANDOLT, Secretary, CDS, Department of World Service

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- Ms. Margret KRUSCHE
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- Ms. Thilda MAU
- Ms. Andrea NOSTBAKKEN
- Ms. Ann PREUS
- Ms. Frances SCHERER
- Ms. Dorothea SCHULTZ
- Ms. Inge STOLL

Address of the Chairperson of the Commission on Studies on the Study Responsibility in the LWF

(1) We have arrived at the end of our term of office. That should give us cause to look back and to look forward. Since the Seven-Year-Report (From Dar-es-Salaam to Budapest 1977 - 1984, April 1984, No. 17 - 18, 193 - 272) contains a comprehensive report on the period behind us and further comments will be made at the Assembly, I will only present to you today a position paper of the Department of Studies on structural questions concerning studies in the LWF, and an introductory letter of the Commission on Studies which might be of value for the future work of the Commission on Studies. The document is included in the Agenda as EXHIBIT 9.4.2.

(2) The experiences and views it contains correspond to my own. As you know I am the only member of the Commission that served also on the previous Commission on Studies. I am thus in a position to have an overview of 14 years of studies in the LWF, and although there were profound differences in the two periods as regards ideology, approach and methods (Ulrich Duchrow and Yoshiro Ishida being very different people), the structural problems have remained the same, they have even increased despite the increased renown of studies in the LWF in the last few years.

(3) Please allow me in this context to ask the Executive Committee on behalf of the outgoing Commission on Studies for greater continuity in the composition of the new Commission on Studies than has been the case after Dar-es-Salaam. it turned out to be a disadvantage that only one member of the former Commission was in the new one as well, and as Chairperson at that, whose first task it was to strengthen the feeling of togetherness and group cohesion out of loyalty to the Commission. Thus the input from previous periods remained weak. A total, new beginning is detrimental to our profile. The new Executive Committee should be aware of that.

(4) I wish to draw your attention now to the position paper of the Studies Department and start with something we all agree on:

(5) 1. Studies are necessary. There is no doubt that an LWF Commission on and Department of Studies has its raison d'être. In that respect the decision taken in Evian in 1970 to pull all studies together in one unit has never been questioned. According to its self-understanding the Lutheran Church is a "church of the word". To that extent it gains its identity ever anew under constantly

changing social conditions by examining the foundations of faith in the World of God. Thus theology is an inseparable part of the ecclesial character of the LWF. What makes a church a church is the Christ question. That is the Lutheran proprium which gives the LWF its profile. Without this permanent theological reflection the Lutheran World Federation would lose its centre; what would remain would be a globally oriented organisation with wide business relations.

(6) 2. Studies must be participatory. This statement has caused some controversy. In the years 1970 - 1977 the Commission on Studies had developed a new methodology for studies that was finally called "multidimensional, interdisciplinary and grassroots oriented". It tried to add further elements to the classical theological reflection (s. 1 above): theory and practice should come closer together just as, according to Luther, faith and action belong together since we have to "pull faith into life" (interpretation of the Magnificat). Therefore, the so-called consultative services have an equal place in the system of studies. Thereby the global connection of faith becomes important for studies. Studies cannot be conducted without knowledge of the social environment, therefore, the dialogue with science and ideologies also belongs to the responsibilities of the Department of Studies. This methodological aspect has been neglected in the last few years. We hope that in future scholars from non-theological disciplines will be included in the work. The most important aspect of studies was probably the participatory and holistic approach. The invitation to the churches to conduct self-studies encouraged above all small churches from the Third World to gain access to the studies process of the LWF and thus responsibly to reflect on their own situation. The so-called ecclesiology study brought together groups from 46 member churches of the LWF. This inclusive way of working has been reduced considerably in the last few years, not least due to funding. If priorities are set for the work according to urgency then these self-studies will have to be strengthened again.

(7) 3. Studies must correspond to mandates. After the debate on approach and methodology of the former Commission on and Department of Studies, the LWF Committee on Priorities gathered the mandates of the Dar-es-Salaam Assembly and the member churches and set priorities for the LWF as a whole as well as the Commission.

(8) This led to the formation of its programme policy by the new Commission on Studies in Geneva 1978:

(9) "The church is sent by God in Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to embody its identity in community and to equip the whole people of God (Ephesians 4, 11 - 15)

in order to minister to the whole world through witness and service" (Report to the Executive Committee 1978, Geneva, Agenda, EXHIBIT 10.2).

(10) Three units were then set up in which our work has been done since:

- church as community
- equipping the people of God
- Christian witness in the world.

(11) The Director of the Department of Studies rightly stated in his report to the Executive Committee in January 1984: "..the Commission's and Department's work over the years strictly followed priorities set in 1978.." (Report of the Commission on Studies to the LWF Executive Committee, EXHIBIT 9.1, page 8).

(12) 4. Studies concern the LWF as a whole. In connection with the efforts to implement the programme priorities some problems have occurred that concern the LWF as a whole. It had been a creative idea brought up at Evian to concentrate studies in the LWF but to incorporate them into the entire work of the LWF. The findings of studies were to serve the entire LWF in all its departments and at the same time lead to higher effectiveness and greater flexibility. The Department of Studies was also to coordinate the findings and the information. That way the LWF was to be able to react more quickly and to avoid duplication. Unfortunately this basic idea could not be implemented. The reasons are manifold and complex. One reason is certainly the tensions that developed around the person of Ulrich Duchrow, but these were also an expression of conceptional differences within the Geneva staff. Unfortunately the General Secretariat did not succeed in effectively playing the role of mediation and coordination that it had been given in Evian. Increasingly the separation of the individual units had a negative effect which was increased by different types of financing and the different partnerships in the supporting churches. The position paper rightly refers to "separate kingdoms" (see point 56). That the Departments of World Service and Church Cooperation were authorised to conduct their own study projects only compounded the failure of the idea of Evian: concentration of studies and at the same time cooperation.

(13) 5. Studies must be financially viable. As shown above, the difficulty of conducting effective studies are not only due to the lack of money, it is, rather, the constant deficit that led to the cancellation of important projects and the non-employment of needed staff. This is a manifestation of apartheid between the individual units of the LWF. The communication within the LWF and its staff in Geneva urgently needs to be improved. If the

LWF as a whole concentrates on its task, it should be possible to change the funding system in such a way that studies do not suffer because there are no powerful donors. The LWF as a whole needs a fundamentally new orientation of its financial structure if its priorities are not to be invalidated or distorted by extraneous influences. The appeal made in Augsburg (1980) "to call upon churches and church agencies in the name of the entire LWF to make non-designated contributions" would be a step in the right direction. It would be particularly urgent to see that the cooperation in the Geneva staff reduces the separateness in favour of determined cooperation. The good examples for cooperation that already exist prove that it is possible with good will and professional competence to strengthen togetherness, but there are too few of these to continue as before.

(14) 6. Studies must serve the weak. Our studies have suffered from the fact that they are too little oriented towards the churches from the Third World. The few attempts made to involve representatives from the Third World more strongly in studies usually came to nothing because of notorious lack of money. The number of self-studies decreased, many studies were restricted to the North in their scope (for instance the Chavanod Consultation on the Coordination of Lutheran Peace Efforts). The fact that there are few representatives of the Third World on the staff of the Department of Studies has been a real drawback. We hope this will change in the new period. But that alone is not sufficient. We have to give new life to the participatory approach of previous years and implement it within the staff - or else the LWF will lose its ecumenical scope that is part of its proprium. This is not only a challenge to the Department of Studies but also to the LWF as a whole. It is in the interest of the weak to relate all aspects of Christian responsibility, mission and development, proclamation and service, salvation and well-being. To bring about change here could be a contribution to the theme of the Assembly: "In Christ - Hope for the World".

(15) 7. Conclusion: I hope that you have realised that neither the position paper nor my introduction to it are meant as an expression of disloyalty or arrogance. This criticism is born out of my concern for the work and intends to create hope for studies. We are asked whether we want to take our decisions of Evian and our priorities of Dar-es-Salaam seriously.

(16) Thank you for allowing me to speak like that. Thank you for the friendship of the last ten years. May God bless the studies of the LWF, may God bless the entire LWF as a community of hope and service.

Budapest, 17th July 1984

Dr. Günter Krusche
Chairperson of the Commission on Studies

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: The Rt. Rev. Dr. James R. Crumley, Jr. (Chairperson)
Dr. Emmanuel Abraham
Rev. Karl Gottschald
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Paavo Y.A. Kortekangas
The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Rapoo

Absent: Dr. B.V. Subbamma

Others: Rev. Karl Gervin
Dr. Yoshiro Ishida
Dr. Anza A. Lema
Dr. Carl H. Mau, Jr.
Dr. Eugene Ries
Rev. Sibrand Siegert
Dr. Rainer Stahl
Mr. Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr.

(1) 1. Introduction

The Constitution Committee met to consider the issue placed before it by the Executive Committee in January 1984, namely, to suggest to the Executive Committee how to deal at the Assembly with the matter of the Harare recommendation concerning status confessionis if there is no satisfactory response from the churches concerned (January 1984 Executive Committee Minutes, para. 33).

(2) In its devotions, the Committee remembered with gratitude the life and service of its late chairperson, Horst Göldner. Bishop James Crumley was chosen to succeed Mr. Göldner as chairperson.

(3) 2. Proposed Suspension of LWF Member Churches

The Committee reviewed the paper "Suspension from LWF Membership: A Legal Perspective", prepared by Ralston Deffenbaugh in January, as well as the General Secretary's "Issue Paper on the Question of Southern Africa", EXHIBIT 17 to the July 1984 Executive Committee Agenda.

(4) While some on the Committee felt that suspension would be possible under the LWF Constitution, others were more doubtful. The latter were of the view that suspension

implied a form of disciplinary action, and that the LWf was not equipped, either in terms of clear criteria or procedures, to engage in disciplinary proceedings. There was a general view that the major issue - the question of apartheid and the consequences of the Dar-es-Salaam Statement on Confessional Integrity - should not be overshadowed by controversy over the issue of whether the LWF Constitution allows for suspension, and, if so, what suspension would mean.

(5) The Committee then worked with EXHIBIT 17's alternative 1 and decided on the following proposal for the Executive Committee to commend to the Assembly:

(6) The Seventh Assembly, having studied and heard extensive reports regarding the situation in Southern Africa

(7) 1. REAFFIRMS the resolution of the Sixth Assembly of Dar-es-Salaam, Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity. The Lutheran World Federation consists of churches which accept the doctrinal basis set forth in Article II of the LWF Constitution. The Sixth Assembly declared the rejection of apartheid to be necessary "on the basis of faith and in order to manifest the unity of the church". The Assembly stated further, "Confessional subscription should lead to concrete manifestation in unity, in worship and in working together at the common task of the church". Therefore, the rejection of apartheid is integral to the Christian witness and to fellowship between the churches.

(8) 2. STRONGLY AND URGENTLY APPEALS to its white member churches in Southern Africa, namely the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) and the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in South West Africa (Namibia), to publicly and unequivocally reject the system of apartheid (separate development) and to end the division of the church on racial grounds.

(9) 3. INSTRUCTS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE to monitor carefully the progress of the above two churches' response to the appeal in paragraph two above.

(10) If by December 31, 1986, the Lutheran World Federation has not been informed in writing that the above two churches have publicly and unequivocally rejected the system of apartheid and ended the division of the church on racial grounds, those churches will have in fact withdrawn from the confessional community which forms the basis of membership in the Lutheran World Federation. In this event, the Executive Committee is instructed to declare their membership as terminated.

(11) 4. ACCEPTS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal) into the membership of the LWF at this time, with the understanding that the appeal as expressed in number two above and the above instruction given to the Executive Committee apply also to this church should a satisfactory response to the appeal in number two above not be received by December 31, 1986.

(12) 5. OFFERS the Lutheran churches in Southern Africa every support and assistance as they seek to witness to the Gospel of the Grace of Jesus Christ and move to visible unity. Such support and assistance should include the following:

(13) a. A visit of a delegation of the Federation to counsel with and encourage the Lutheran churches in Southern Africa.

(14) b. Encouraging other regular visits to the churches by other member churches and the Federation.

(15) c. Continued appeal to member churches around the world to support all Lutheran churches and all churches in Southern Africa in prayer.

(16) d. Continued commitment to strong advocacy on the part of the LWF and its member churches, seeking to support peaceful and positive change towards equality of all peoples of Southern Africa.

(17) 6. ENCOURAGES all member churches to engage in ongoing self-examination in the light of Scripture, rejecting all forms of racial discrimination.

(18) This proposal was supported, among other reasons, because

(19) a. It is true to the central concern of the resolution of Dar-es-Salaam and Harare.

(20) b. It does not resort to a concept new to the Constitution, that is, suspension. The whole debate over suspension and what it means is therefore avoided. The focus is instead on the central issue - apartheid and church unity.

(21) c. It bases the decision on our understanding of our community and confession, not on the basis of a type of disciplinary proceeding for which we are ill-prepared.

(22) d. It gives the churches ample time within which to come into line with the implications of our confession, but provides a more serious consequence should they fail to do so.

(23) 3. Voting Majority Required

In view of the seriousness of a vote to terminate a member church, and considering the implications such a vote would have for the integrity of the LWF, the Committee recommends to the Executive Committee that Rule 4.1.6.7. para. 90 of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, be amended to provide for a 2/3 majority vote requirement in order to terminate a member church.

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

Officers: The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Kibira, President
Mr. C.G. von Ehrenheim, Treasurer
The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Hanselmann, Vice-President
Rev. Dr. A. Hsiao, Vice-President
The Rt. Rev. Dr. D.W. Preus, Vice-President

Cabinet: Rev. Dr. C.H. Mau, Jr., General Secretary
Dr. A.A. Lema, Associate General Secretary
Rev. M. Chambron, Director of the Department of Communication
Ms. C. Held, Director of CDS of the Department of World Service
Rev. Dr. Y. Ishida, Director of the Department of Studies
Rev. R. Lehtonen, Director of the Department of Church Cooperation
Mr. G. Messner, Comptroller
Dr. E. Ries, Director of the Department of World Service

Others: Rev. P. Larsson, Assistant to the President

Other Staff: Mr. F. König, German Editor, Department of Communication

Conference Staff: Ms. C. Evans, Administrative Assistant to the Associate General Secretary
Ms. I. Krähenbühl, Administrative Assistant to the General Secretary

(1) 1. Opening

President Kibira opened the meeting on 15th July 1984 at 15.00 hours welcoming all participants.

(2) Devotions were led by Dr. D.W. Preus.

(3) 2. Agenda and Time Schedule

The General Secretary introduced the agenda and time schedule which were adopted with the understanding that changes could be made in the course of the meeting if required.

(4) 3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Officers noted that the Minutes of their last meeting has been approved as reported to the Executive Committee during their meeting in Geneva/Switzerland in January 1984 (see EXHIBIT 14 of the Minutes of the January 1984 Executive Committee Meeting).

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

(5) 4. Financial Matters

The Comptroller gave a general overview of the financial situation of the Geneva headquarters. He indicated that the general financial situation had improved for the following reasons:

(6) - the extra contribution provided by a number of churches to meet deficits both in the A-budget and in the Assembly budget;

(7) - the savings that had been affected in headquarters costs as instructed by the Executive Committee;

(8) - the strengthening of the dollar which enabled the budget to be met more easily.

(9) In the discussion it was also pointed out that churches without financial means have much to contribute to the life and the work of the Federation, especially in the gift of persons.

(10) Thanks were expressed for the several churches that had provided special gifts to help meet the deficits.

(11) 5. Personnel Matters

Appointments and Renewal of Terms

5.1 Comptroller (expiration of term: 30th April 1985)

The Officers voted to recommend to the Executive Committee that Gerhard Messner be appointed for a new 3-year term, from 1st May 1985 to 30th April 1988.

(12) 5.2 Assistant Comptroller for Fund-raising Coordination

The General Secretary presented a revised LWF position description for the position of Assistant Comptroller. A major thrust of this revision is to as-

sign the Assistant Comptroller the coordination for fund-raising. It was felt that this provides a very much needed and important function, and Ms. Vera Henrich is willing to accept this position as revised.

(13) The Officers

VOTED: to approve the revised LWF Position Description as outlined in EXHIBIT 5.2.1 of the Agenda.

(14) 6. Assembly Preparations

The Associate General Secretary, Anza Lema, gave an overview on Assembly preparations indicating the problems that are being faced both by LWF staff and the host church. He complimented the host church and the hotel management for the excellent cooperation.

(15) In addition the General Secretary presented the following matters having to do with the Assembly.

(16) 6.1 Status Confessionis

He briefly described the question of status confessionis and the way the Executive Committee might handle it. The Officers received this as information.

(17) 6.2 Assembly Committees

Regarding vacancies that have occurred with respect to appointments to Assembly Committees to be recommended to the Assembly, the Officers

VOTED: to recommend to the Executive Committee

(18) 1. to replace Ms. Ling Anderson with Ms. Gerd Ann Aarset on the Nominations Committee;

(19) 2. to replace Mr. Horst Göldner with Bishop von Keler on the Coordinating Committee.

(20) With respect to the Church and the Jewish People it had been agreed that rather than having a working group deal with this issue, a special committee be asked to study the latest report from the dialogue between the Lutheran World Federation and the IJCIC (International Jewish Committee on Inter-religious

Consultation) and give a report to the Assembly. In addition it has been agreed to receive an extended greeting from Dr. G. Riegner, the General Secretary of the World Jewish Congress.

(21) The Officers will recommend the persons to be asked to serve on the Committee after further consultation with the Cabinet.

(22) The General Secretary presented a possible draft statement of a greeting that could be extended to the Mennonite World Conference meeting in Strasbourg at the same time as the Assembly. It was agreed to ask a small committee to formulate a possible greeting that could be extended by the Executive Committee.

(23) 7. Miscellaneous

7.1 Office Space

The General Secretary reported on the projected new wing of the Ecumenical Centre intended to provide additional office space for the LWF. The need for the Department of Studies to find permanent office space was particularly urgent. The WCC has agreed to build a new 4-storey wing with 84 rooms, a considerable proportion of which will also be rented out to other international organisations. The General Secretary has been asked to provide assurances that the LWF would remain in the building for the coming five years and then for three-year periods thereafter with one year notice to be given should the Federation wish to vacate the building.

(24) The Officers

VOTED: to guarantee that the LWF would remain for at least five years in the Ecumenical Centre and three-year periods thereafter with one year notice to be given should the Federation wish to vacate.

(25) 7.2 Pietermaritzburg

Rev. R. Lehtonen gave a brief report on the development of a programme of theological education on a unified basis for the Lutheran churches in South Africa, which is being planned in cooperation with the University of Natal, the ELCSA and the UELCSA and the LWF and this is seen as a very hopeful sign for theological education for both the so-called black as well as the white churches.

(26) The Officers

VOTED: to welcome the progress report on this matter.

(27) 7.3 Vacancy on the Constitution Committee

It was

VOTED: to recommend to the Executive Committee to appoint Bishop James Crumley, Jr., to serve as Chairperson of the Constitution Committee.

(28) It was also

VOTED: to ask Mr. Dummler to serve on that Committee.

(29) 7.4 Memorial Service for Bishop Ordass

The General Secretary reported on the memorial service to be held at the graveside of Bishop Ordass with Ms. Ordass and members of her family in attendance. This celebration was to take place near the end of the week, probably on Friday, 20th July.

(30) 8. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 19.00 hours. Devotions were led by the General Secretary.

REPORT OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Standing Finance Committee met on 16th July, 1984 and the following persons were present for the whole or part of the time:

Committee Members:	C.G. von Ehrenheim, Treasurer
	E. Abraham
	K. Gottschald
	D. Marple
	S. Siegert
Executive Committee Member and Consultants:	J. Bachmann
	G. Diestel
	K. Dummler
	G. Krusche
Staff:	C. Mau
	M. Chambron
	V. Henrich
	Y. Ishida
	R. Landolt
	R. Lehtonen
	G. Messner
	E. Ries
National Committee Representative:	W. Schultz

(1) 1. Report of the Treasurer and Comptroller

In presenting their joint report, the Treasurer expressed appreciation for the continued support of the member churches which, together with careful administration, had made possible a balanced financial statement for the year 1983. The Comptroller pointed out certain other areas of concern, which were discussed in detail in later agenda points.

(2) Following up the January 1984 Finance Committee's request, that a more coordinated LWF Geneva "A" items approach be realised, with appropriate reserve funds, which ensure that the multipurpose nature of the LWF be retained and that designated grants (for example hunger and development funds) are not diminished, an Interdepartmental Task Force on Geneva Administration Costs has been

established. In addition, the Assistant Comptroller's position has been newly described to facilitate such co-ordination.

(3) The Committee

RECOMMENDED: that the report of the Treasurer and Comptroller be received with appreciation.

(4) 2. Review of 1983

Approval of 1983 Audit Reports

Particular attention was given to the Group Financial Statement (EXHIBIT 15.5 of the Agenda) which summarizes the total financial affairs of the LWF. Appendix II of this Statement shows that for the 1983 Composite Statement of Needs total expenditure amounted to $ 42,225,563.

(5) With respect to membership contributions, the Finance Committee noted that the total budgeted amount was $ 1,210,360. Actual receipts amounted to $ 1,184,404.

(6) The Committee was informed that the Commissions on Church Cooperation, World Service, Studies and Communication, having dealt with their respective audit reports, had found them in order and recommend them for approval by the Executive Committee.

(7) Accordingly, the Committee

VOTED: that the audit reports for 1983 for the General Secretariat, the Commissions and the Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research as well as the Group Financial Statement be accepted;

(8) that the contributions received from member churches towards the 1983 membership contributions be gratefully acknowledged and that the Lutheran World Federation place on record its appreciation to the LWF member churches, related agencies and other donors for the generous contributions towards the Lutheran World Federation and its programmes during the year 1983.

(9) It was noted that due to Assembly preparations, in addition to the on-going heavy workload, the qualitative audit requested by the Finance Committee for 1983 could not be carried out. This audit will be implemented in connection with the 1984 regular audit.

(10) Following the example of the budget for the Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research, which is based now on French Francs, the use of local currencies for other projects, where feasible, should be explored.

(11) 1983 Audit Report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the LWF

The Committee also gave attention to the audit report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the LWF as found in EXHIBIT 15.4 of the Agenda. Total assets of the Pension Fund amounted to SFr. 12,874,727. The transactions within the Pension Fund were as follows: credit balance as of 1st January 1983: SFr. 7,934,060; receipts in 1983: SFr. 1,218,016 for the LWF subsidy, SFr. 3,500,000 as a special contribution and SFr. 508,120 on investment income; against SFr. 518,476 expenditure, resulting on a balance of SFr. 12,641,720 in the Fund at year end.

(12) Following discussion, the Committee

RECOMMENDED: that the audit report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the Lutheran World Federation be received as information.

(13) 3. Overview of 1984

3.1 Potential to Cover 1984 Statement of Needs - Assurances

The summary of the requested and assured income towards the Geneva 1984 "A" budgets, as presented in the separate Finance Committee Agenda Reference, shows that as of 30th June 1984, there is an uncovered balance of $ 157,000. The Comptroller informed the Committee that, taking into account later allocations, interest and currency exchange gains, it should be possible to cover the present unassured amounts for the Geneva "A" items.

(14) The Committee noted, that as requested by the Finance Committee at the 13th January 1984 meeting, the 1984 LWF Geneva "A" items were decreased by $ 202,600.

(15) Following discussion, the Committee

RECOMMENDED: that the substantial support already provided by member churches, national committees and other contributing agencies towards the 1984 Composite Statement of Needs be gratefully ac-

knowledged while, at the same time, drawing attention to the uncovered balance with the request that support be sustained for the tasks still to be accomplished this year.

(16) 4. 1985 Composite Statement of Needs

4.1 Approval of the Draft Statement of Needs

It was noted that the Standing Finance Committee has a specific responsibility with respect to the proposed Statement of Needs of the General Secretariat, since that section of the Composite Statement of Needs is not previously processed through any governing commission of the Federation. The Assistant Comptroller explained this section of the proposed Statement of Needs, and the Statement of Needs of the four Commissions were presented by the respective Directors of the Departments. It was noted that the Commissions and other units are taking the necessary steps to ensure that the income and expenditure for 1985 Statement of Needs "A" items are balanced.

(17) Following discussion, the Committee

RECOMMENDED: 1. that the 1985 Composite Statement of Needs of the General Secretariat be approved;

(18) 2. that the proposed 1985 Composite Statement of Needs for the General Secretariat, the Departments of Studies, Church Cooperation, World Service and Communication be authorised by the Executive Committee for submission to member churches, national committees and other potential donor agencies with its earnest recommendation for generous support.

(19) 3. Subsequently, it was recommended that the 1985 request for the DCC Youth Desk, amounting to 92,100 be transferred from "B" to "A".

(20) 4.2 Approval of 1985 Membership Contributions

Following discussion, the Committee

RECOMMENDED: 1. to reaffirm its resolution from

Augsburg in 1980 that the member churches set as a goal the payment of 1 cent (US$) per member as a minimum for their membership contribution and that the minimum amount of the membership contribution to LWF be raised to $ 240.

(21) 2. that the 1985 membership contributions be authorised in the amount of $ 1,340,020 as listed in EXHIBIT 15.5 of the Executive Committee Agenda.

(22) 4.3 Approval of the Apportionment of the 1985 Membership Contributions

With respect to the allocation of membership contributions to the headquarters' budget, the Committee

RECOMMENDED: that the anticipated income of $ 1,340,020 from membership contributions be allocated as follows:

Gen. Secretariat	$ 923,820
Dept. of Studies	135,000
Dept. of Communication	281,200

(23) Accordingly, the financing of the budget of the General Secretariat for 1985 is envisaged as follows:

Total "A" budget	$ 1,537,540	
Membership contributions 1985		$ 923,820
Allocation from units to OFPA		414,000
Allocation still requested		199,720
	$ 1,537,540	1,537,540

(24) 4.4 Approval of the Apportionment of the Office of Finance, Personnel and Administration (OFPA) Subsidy

The Committee was informed that the contribution of the departments to the OFPA budget in 1985 would amount to $ 414,000 as in 1984. This amount would be shared proportionately among the departments, with the understanding that the present division of contributions among departments be reviewed. This matter was received as information by the Committee.

(25) 5. Assembly Fund

The Committee received the budget for the Seventh Assembly which amounts to $ 1,314,000, as information. It was noted that foreseeable contributions as of 1st July 1984 were approximately $ 1,284,000, leaving a shortfall of about $ 30,000.

(26) Therefore, the Committee

RECOMMENDED: that member churches be commended for their positive responses to the Assembly Fund and that the member churches be urged to cover the remaining shortfall of $ 30,000.

Membership Contribution Request 1985
(as approved by Finance Committee)

Approval of 1985 Membership Contribution request

		Requested 1984	Requested 1985
Argentina	United Ev. Luth. Church	400	420
Austria	Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession	2.805	2.945
Bolivia	Bolivian Ev. Lutheran Church	210	240
Brazil	Ev. Church of Luth. Confession in Brazil	3.770	3.960
Cameroon	Ev. Luth. Church of Cameroon	385	405
Canada	Canadian National Committe	14.015	14.715
Central African Republic	Ev. Luth. Church of Central African Republic	290	305
Chile	Ev. Lutheran Church in Chile	550	575
Columbia	Ev. Luth. Church - Colombia Synod	250	260
Czechoslovakia	Silesian Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession	210	240
	Slovak Ev. Church of the Augsburg Confession	1.350	1.415
Denmark	Ev. Lutheran Church in Denmark	35.775	37.560
Exile Churches	Estonian Ev. Luth. Church in Exile	420	440
	Latvian Ev. Luth. Church in Exile	670	700
	Lithuanian Ev. Luth. Church in Exile	360	375
Ethiopia	Ev. Church of Eritrea	230	240
	Ethiopian Ev. Church Mekane Yesus	820	860
Finland	Ev. Luth. Church of Finland	51.060	53.615
France	Natl. Alliance of French Luth. Churches	7.665	8.045
Germany (FRG)	National Committee	559.130	587.085
Germany (GDR)	National Committee of the LWF	18.235	19.145
Guyana	Luth. Church in Guyana	520	545
Hong Kong	Chinese Rhenish Church, Hong Kong Synod	1.510	1.585
	Ev. Lutheran Church of Hong Kong	380	400
	Tsung Tsin Mission Church, Hong Kong	290	305
	Lutheran Church, Hong Kong Synod	240	250
Hungary	Lutheran Church in Hungary	2.315	2.420
Iceland	National Church of Iceland	2.665	2.795
India	United Ev. Luth. Churches in India	1.745	1.830
Indonesia	Christian Protestant Church (GKPI)	330	345
	Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (GKPS)	400	420
	Batak Christian Community Church (GPKB)	210	240
	Protestant Christian Batak Church (HKBP)	1.280	1.345
	Batak Protestant Christian Church-Angkola (HKBP-A)	210	240
	Huria Kristen Indonesia (HKI)	400	420
Italy	Ev. Lutheran Church in Italy	550	575

REPORT OF THE STANDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee Members:	The Rev. Peter Dorairaj Prälat Dr. Albrecht Hege The Rt. Rev. Jonas Kalvanas The Rt. Rev. Paavo Kortekangas
Absent:	Ms. Fibi Nancy Nadah Mr. William T. Billings
Staff Members:	Dr. Anza A. Lema The Rev. Dr. Carl H. Mau, Jr. Mr. Ralston Deffenbaugh The Rev. Risto Lehtonen Ms. Frances Philpot

(1) The Standing Membership Committee held its meeting on 16th July 1984. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Rt. Rev. Paavo Kortekangas was asked to take the chair.

(2) The Associate General Secretary, Dr. Anza Lema, reported to the Committee about the applications from various Lutheran churches, and the stage of processing they had reached.

(3) I. RECOMMENDED FOR MEMBERSHIP OF LWF

1. Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee in January, Dr. Arne Sovik, a member of LWF staff, visited North Sumatra in Indonesia, and after discussions with leaders of member churches there, concluded that there should be further investigation of the relations between the applicant and the HKBP. Subsequently, Dr. Lema wrote to member churches who had not replied to his earlier letter, and the only negative answer came from HKBP. There is a dispute over property and other matters, as the applicant is using one church building which belongs to HKBP. Meantime, the applicant has several times asked LWF to mediate in the dispute.

(4) There has also been some adverse comment from Bishop Munthe, who argued that "splintering" of the churches would be encouraged.

(5) In the light of the facts now known, it was agreed that the Committee

RECOMMEND: (a) that this church be admitted to membership of LWF at the forthcoming Assembly;

(6) (b) that the LWF be encouraged to mediate between the two churches.

(7) 2. Church Council of Lanka Lutheran Church

The Rev. Satoru Kishii, the Asia Secretary in the Department of Church Cooperation, visited Sri Lanka and had discussions with the church leadership there and also with a missionary from the Missouri Lutheran Church who is working with the applicant. Pastor Kishii concluded in his report that the church is not yet organised in such a way as to be viable. The Executive Secretary of the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches of India (UELCI) had also commented, suggesting postponement of admission of the church for the time being.

(8) After some discussion, the Committee agreed to

RECOMMEND: that the date of admission of the applicant to membership of LWF be postponed meantime, and that the LWF Area Secretary for Asia should continue to keep in touch with the applicant and with the other churches in the area.

(9) 3. Lutheran Church of Taiwan

There have been no further developments since the last meeting of the Standing Membership Committee apart from a letter informing the applicant of the action of the Executive Committee.

(10) The Committee therefore agreed to

RECOMMEND: that this church be admitted to membership of LWF at the forthcoming Assembly.

(11) II. COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Gereja K.P.M., Indonesia

Since the last meeting of the Standing Committee, the information that had been requested from the ap-

plicant has been received. Some letters have also been received from churches in the area, but not from all. There has been no objection so far to the application.

(12) One of the churches to recommend the admission of the applicant was the HKBP, and it was pointed out that the applicant was of a different language grouping, and therefore there was no question of "splintering".

(13) The Committee agreed to

RECOMMEND: that this church be admitted to membership of LWF at the forthcoming Assembly.

(14) 2. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana

This applicant has fulfilled all requirements for membership, and the LWF member churches in the area have approved admission, with the important exception of ELCSA.

(15) The Committee expressed the wish to consult some of the leaders of the churches in the area, and it was agreed that this would be helpful, and feasible as some of them were attending the Assembly. The Committee then heard the views of Bishop Rapoo, and decided to hear those of Bishops Shiri and Dumeni when they arrive. The matter was then left open for further discussion later during the sitting of the Assembly.

(16) 3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal)

Since January there has been more correspondence with this applicant, and all required information is now available. Most LWF member churches in the area have responded favourabley to requests for their views. However, the letter from ELCSA makes the proviso that the applicant should be admitted to membership of LWF only if it meets the recommendation of the All Africa Consultation held in Harare, Zimbabwe, last year, concerning the white churches and status confessionis.

(17) It was decided that the Committee should base its recommendations on the normal membership criteria, and leave the question of the Harare factor to the Executive Committee to deal with. The Committee therefore agreed to

(18) RECOMMEND: that this church is eligible for membership, apart from the statement of the Harare Consultation on status confessionis.

(19) 4. Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Zaire

This church came into being as a result of missionary work undertaken by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania in collaboration with the Finnish Missionary Society. All necessary data have been supplied by the applicant, and the ELCT has been asked for its views. As there has not been time yet to obtain a full statement from the ELCT, the Committee decided to postpone any recommendation until the end of the Executive Committee Meeting. If no new information has emerged by that time, the Committee will postpone the matter for another year.

(20) III. PENDING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

1. Latin American Lutheran Church, Bolivia

At the January meeting of the Committee, it was reported that this congregation had difficulties with the LWF member church in the country, namely the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The efforts of the LWF Area Secretary for Latin America, the Rev. Heimberto Kunkel, and of the Rev. George Posfay to mediate between them have continued since then. As the applicant would come under the category of "Associate Member" if the new Constitution provides for this category, the Committee decided to

(21) RECOMMEND: that the matter should be left pending until after the new Constitution is approved and made effective.

(22) 2. Bangladesh Lutheran Church, Rangpur

Requests for some further information from this church have not so far met with any response. They have not given financial data, or a reply about membership of the Christian Council of Bangladesh.

(23) The Committee therefore decided to

RECOMMEND: that the application be kept pending, until further information is available.

(24) 3. Lutheran Evangelical Movement, Sivakasi

(25) 4. China Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chia Yi, Taiwan

(26) 5. Lutheran Church of Japan, Tokyo

(27) 6. Lutheran Council of Great Britain

(28) There have still been no replies from the three churches named above to request for further information.

(29) The application of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain awaits the approval of the Assembly for the category of "Associate Member" in the new Constitution.

(30) The Committee agreed to

RECOMMEND: that these four applications be kept pending and that there should be further correspondence with the applicants.

(31) 7. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru

Information from the Rev. Heimberto Kunkel, the Latin America Secretary in the Department of Church Cooperation, indicates that the two Lutheran congregations (German and Spanish) in San-Isidro/Lima, Peru, continue to pursue the possibility of uniting, and wish to become members of LWF. These congregations would also await the category of "Associate Member" unless the two congregations unite to form a church, in which case their application would take on a different nature.

(32) The Committee agreed to

RECOMMEND: that contact be maintained with leadership of the congregations through the Latin America Secretary.

(33) 8. Fiel del Ecuador, Cuenca

A number of small Evangelical Lutheran congregations in Ecuador, who form a loose federation called the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ecuador, also await a new category of membership of LWF, unless the federation becomes organised as a church.

(34) The Committee agreed to

RECOMMEND: that contact be maintained with these congregations through the Latin America Secretary.

(35) Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Elberfeld-Nord, FRG

Since January, no further correspondence has been exchanged until further word is received from the LWF National Committee in the Federal Republic of Germany.

(36) The Committee agreed to

RECOMMEND: that the enquiry from this church be left pending until further word is received from the LWF National Committee in the Federal Republic of Germany.

(37) IV. NEW ENQUIRIES ABOUT LWF MEMBERSHIP

1. Salvadoran Lutheran Synod

The Salvadoran Lutheran Synod, which is related to the Missouri Lutheran Church of the US, had expressed to LWF staff member Mr. Gustavo Rodriguez, a wish to start discussions on application for membership. There has been further correspondence with the applicant, and application forms and a copy of the LWF Constitution have been sent.

(38) The Committee agreed to

RECOMMEND: that contact be maintained with the applicant.

(39) 2. Iglesia Evangelica Luterana, Uruguay

This church is in fact a very small congregation, and might want to apply for a status other than that of full membership.

(40) The church has been given information on procedure for applying for membership of LWF. There has been no change since the last meeting of the Membership Committee.

(41) The Committee agreed to

RECOMMEND: that the report of the Associate General Secretary be accepted for information.